



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES DÜSSELDORF • GERMANY

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Selected Events July - December 2009

NEWS FROM THE CONSULATE



InWent Celebrates "60 Years Of U.S. Exchange Programs"

November 26, 2009. On November 25, Consul General Janice Weiner represented the U.S. Mission at a reception celebrating 60 years of exchange programs with the United States at the [InWent exchange organization in Bonn](#). Over the past six decades, InWent and its predecessor, the Carl-Duisberg-Society, have enabled over 100,000 Germans and Americans to participate in bilateral exchanges. Currently, 1,300 participants are involved in exchange programs every year. The Consul General commended the InWent staff on their commitment to bilateral exchanges, particularly for the effective administration of the CBYX program. InWent CEO Sebastian Paust expressed his appreciation for the generous support from Mission Germany and was confident that transatlantic exchanges would continue at a high level.



Celebrating Thanksgiving With Good Contacts In Different Regions In NRW

November 26, 2009. Consul General Janice Weiner, Deputy Chris Grossman and consulate staff hosted or attended a number of Thanksgiving events this past week. The events were an opportunity to share President Obama's Thanksgiving Proclamation with some of post's closest contacts and to strengthen the network of bilateral partnership organizations. The Consul General hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at her residence on November 26 and addressed the guests at the Aachen-Arlington Partnership Committee dinner on November 29. Other events included dinners and receptions hosted by the Wesel-Hagerstown Partnership Committee, the German-American Association in Wuppertal, and the G-A Association Cologne and the Cologne-Indianapolis Partnership Committee. The Thanksgiving celebrations were occasions to thank partner organizations for their commitment and to renew cooperation.



Students From St. George's English International School Visit Consulate

November 23, 2009. On November 23, Consul General Janice Weiner and Deputy Chris Grossman took time to engage students from the St. George's English International School in Duisburg, who visited the consulate to learn about the work of American diplomats. The group participates in the model United Nations debating society at their school and was particularly interested to learn how diplomatic negotiations take place in reality and to hear about the consulate's public diplomacy activities.



Ambassador Murphy Promotes Transatlantic Business In Duesseldorf, Essen

November 18 & 19, 2009. Ambassador Murphy's visit to NRW on November 18/19 began with a dinner in Essen and a breakfast the next day in Duesseldorf, where he discussed a wide range of economic, trade and foreign policy issues with senior executives and business leaders. At MEDICA, the world's largest international trade fair for medical equipment and technology, Ambassador Murphy met with U.S. exhibitors and was impressed with the array of product innovations in this important industry. Concluding his visit, the Ambassador participated in a one-hour off-the-record roundtable discussion at Handelsblatt, hosted by editor-in-chief Bernd Ziesemer. In all his meetings, Ambassador Murphy emphasized the global importance of the German-American partnership.



Consulate Celebrates International Education Week

November 17, 2009. In support of International Education Week, the consulate organized a number of events throughout NRW. Deputy Consul General Chris Grossman discussed U.S. foreign and domestic policies with high school audiences in Neuss, Cologne, Dorsten and Muehlhausen. Fulbright teaching assistant Julia de Saylor was invited by the American Institute for Foreign Study in Bonn to brief 50 German high schoolers who will start their U.S. exchange in January 2010. And Education USA specialist Petra Spitz offered a workshop on Study USA on November 17 at the Dortmund Public library. These events gave high school students a chance to discuss U.S. society with an American diplomat and also pointed out the benefits of an U.S. experience for young Germans. | [Meet US School Outreach Program](#) | [Education USA](#)



Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard Warmly Received At Cologne City Hall

November 16, 2009. A reception hosted by Lord Mayor Juergen Roters highlighted the visit in Cologne of Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard and his delegation on November 16. Speaking at City Hall, Mayor Ballard noted that all his predecessors had made it a point to visit their partner city Cologne, a sign of the importance that Indianapolis attaches to this transatlantic connection. Both Mayors Ballard and Roters acknowledged the excellent work of the partnership committees which regularly organize exchanges and cultural programs as well as economic activities. The visit of the U.S. guests also included appointments at the Cologne international trade fair facilities, the Chamber of Commerce and several companies and utilities in the city. | [Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis e.V.](#)



Consul General Attends Groundbreaking Event For New Mosque In Cologne

November 7, 2009. Together with Cologne City and NRW officials, Federal Minister of State Werner Hoyer, the President of the Turkish government's Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet) Ali Bardakoglu and Minister of State Faruk Celik, Consul General Janice Weiner was a guest of honor at the laying of the cornerstone for the new mosque and cultural center in Cologne. Once completed, the mosque will accommodate over 1,000 in the prayer hall and contain facilities for cultural events and exchanges. Consul General Weiner was

invited to take an active part in the ceremony - with shovel in hand she helped to lay the foundation stone. | [Photo gallery \(DITIB\)](#)



Students In Dortmund Check Out Study Opportunities In The U.S.

November 7, 2009. 300 high school students and parents collected information about ways to spend time in the U.S. (and in other countries) at an all-day youth fair at the Geschwister Scholl Comprehensive School in Dortmund on November 7. The great resonance at the fair reflected the continuing interest of young Germans to have an experience abroad. The participation of Education USA specialist Petra Spitz ensured comprehensive and current information about studying, doing volunteer work or internships in the U.S., including on financial aid and visa questions. | [Education USA](#)



Consul General Janice Weiner as "Witness To History" - Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of The Wall

November 5, 2009. In the context of its Europe Music Awards, MTV invited selected guests from media, business, politics, and the creative industry to an afternoon program exploring the events around November 9, 1989. The program featured Duesseldorf Consul General Janice Weiner and Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, George Glass, from the U.S. Embassy Berlin, who shared their experiences of serving at the U.S. Embassy in East Berlin during the fall of the Wall and the Reunification process in 1989/1990.



Consul General Participates In Editorial Roundtable In Essen

November 4, 2009. At a one-hour roundtable with editors at regional daily Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) in Essen on Nov. 4, Consul General Janice Weiner emphasized the global importance and value of the German-American partnership. The discussion, moderated by deputy chief editor Wilhelm Kluemper, was timely taking place the day after Chancellor Merkel's address before Congress and the GM decision on Opel. Consequently, the exchange focused on the USG's reaction regarding GM's decision to keep Opel, the global financial crisis, the new Afghanistan strategy, the upcoming Copenhagen summit on climate change, and the importance of Europe for the U.S.



Dialogue On Post-Conflict Reconstruction In Bonn

October 29, 2009. Barbara Balaj, independent consultant for the World Bank, engaged important audiences on post-conflict reconstruction issues on October 29 in Bonn. At a roundtable discussion at the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) moderated by Director Peter Croll she gave an overview of the post-conflict reconstruction activities of the U.S. government in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A subsequent luncheon on "Women in Post-Conflict Societies" involved representatives of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as international development organizations. Both program events explored opportunities of economic cooperation in the Middle East facilitated by the World Bank and the role of the U.S. as a broker.



Konrad Adenauer Alumni Briefed At The Consulate

October 29, 2009. A group of students from Cologne University, all of them grantees of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, visited the Consulate on October 29, where they had a wide-ranging discussion with Consul Chris Grossman. The students were interested to learn about U.S. diplomacy and foreign policy and current events. Chris Grossman explained how the Foreign Service and the State Department represent the U.S. abroad, focusing on Mission Germany and the public diplomacy activities of the Consulate in Duesseldorf.



Minister President Juergen Ruetters Welcomes Consul General Janice Weiner To NRW

October 28, 2009. On October 28, Minister President Dr. Juergen Ruetters received Consul General Janice Weiner for her official introductory call at the State Chancellery. Dr. Ruetters noted his regular annual visits to the United States and the importance the state government attaches to close bilateral relations. The meeting was an opportunity to review the varied and close connections between North Rhine Westphalia and the United States, in particular the economic interdependence and numerous exchange programs, and to discuss the challenges the world economic crisis presents. | [State Chancellery press release](#)



High School Students In Essen Interested In Policies of the Obama Administration

October 27, 2009. On Oct. 27, Deputy Consul General Chris Grossman discussed U.S. policies and society with 90 students at Gymnasium Essen-Werden, an active partner of post's MeetUS program. The 12th graders showed keen interest in current foreign and domestic challenges facing the Obama Administration and used the discussion to get first-hand views from the U.S. diplomat. Most questions centered on the economic crisis, climate change, the struggle against extremism and health care reform. Many of the students had spent a high school year in the U.S. and demonstrated their knowledge and expertise in exchanges with the speaker. | [Meet US School Outreach Program](#)



NRZ Portrays Consul General As A "Top Woman" In NRW

October 23, 2009. In the October 23 issue of the Neue Rhein Ruhr Zeitung (NRZ) Consul General Janice Weiner is portrayed in the newspaper's special series "Top Women in NRW." The detailed article describes her career as a senior U.S. diplomat, her first impressions of the state capital and the focus of the public diplomacy work at the consulate. There is also a reference to the fact that three of the five U.S. Consuls General in Germany are women. Other women in leadership positions featured in the series include: the director of the Duesseldorf art museum, the president of Duesseldorf technical college and the CEO of a major company located in NRW. | [Read the article](#)



Ambassador's Award In American Studies Presented At Bonn University Ceremony

October 19, 2009. At the opening ceremony of the academic year at Bonn University on October 19, the U.S. Ambassador's Award was presented to Daniel Holder for his thesis in North American Studies by Rector Professor Juergen Fohrmann. This year's prize was awarded to Mr. Holder for his thesis on "From 'Black' to 'Red'? W.E.B. DuBois and Paul Robeson's Responses to McCarthyism" prepared under the direction of American literature professor Sabine Sielke. Consul General Janice Weiner represented the U.S. Mission at the event and congratulated the young scholar on his academic accomplishment. In addition to the award signed by Ambassador Murphy, Mr. Holder received a grant that for a research project related to the United States. The tradition of awarding the best thesis at Bonn University goes back to 1992 when the U.S. Embassy was in Bonn. | [Bonn University North American Studies Program](#)



U.S. Economist David Singer "Guardedly Optimistic" About Economic Recovery

October 14, 2009. At a roundtable discussion at the headquarters of Deutsche Telekom in Bonn on October 14, MIT political economist David Singer discussed the prospects for effectively regulating international financial markets and the economic recovery in the U.S. and Europe. The event, which was arranged by the Consulate in conjunction with the Bonn Chapter of the German Council on Foreign Relations and Amerika Haus NRW, was attended by government officials, diplomats and business leaders and generated a focused discussion on the lessons that need to be drawn from the financial crisis. After the roundtable David Singer gave a radio interview to Deutschlandfunk. | [Listen to the interview](#)



Ambassador's Visit to Cologne Highlighted by Reception at City Hall

October 12, 2009. Ambassador Philip Murphy spent Columbus Day in Cologne engaging in a variety of activities: At the International and Food and Beverage Trade Show (ANUGA) in Cologne he met with representatives of U.S. food companies and showed his support for U.S. agriculture. He then participated in a roundtable with editors and gave an interview at German national radio "Deutschlandfunk" which was broadcast the next day. The visit concluded with a reception hosted by Cologne Mayor Fritz Schramma at City Hall which was attended by Cologne officials and citizens involved in bilateral relations, including members of the Cologne-Indianapolis partnership committee and the Amerika Haus e.V. NRW. The Ambassador thanked Mayor Schramma for his enduring dedication to German-American friendship and expressed his appreciation to Cologne citizens committed to cultivating German-American ties.



Ambassador Phil Murphy Supports U.S. Agriculture at ANUGA Trade Show

October 12, 2009. At this year's [ANUGA](#) (International and Food and Beverage) Trade Show in Cologne, Ambassador Murphy met with representatives of U.S. food and beverage companies to highlight the importance of trade and show his support for U.S. Agriculture. More than 160 U.S. companies representing a variety of products including

nuts, beef, poultry, grains, juices, and other consumer-oriented food products showcased their quality products to international importers and food service organizations. Most of these companies are small to medium sized firms, whose participation is supported through the use of funds provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program. The ANUGA Trade Show is the world's largest food and beverage show in the world and takes place every two years.



Major Exhibition In Kleve Dedicated To Alex Katz

October 11, 2009. An exhibition entitled "Alex Katz - An American Way of Seeing" opened at Museum Kurhaus Kleve on October 11. At the opening, attended by 400 guests, Consul General Janice Weiner noted the large presence and variety of American art and culture in North Rhine-Westphalia and thanked Museum Director Guido de Werd and his team for continuing to present major American artists in his city near the Dutch border. Kleve Mayor Theodor Brauer acknowledged Consulate's support for the exhibition. Alex Katz, who is 82, was present at the opening and signed dozens of exhibition catalogues. The exhibition will be shown until February 21, 2010.



Huge Interest In "Startschuss Abi" Exchange Fair In Gelsenkirchen

October 10, 2009. Close to 1,000 high school students from all over NRW were a record attendance at this year's "[Startschuss ABI](#)" information and exchange fair at the Science Park in Gelsenkirchen on October 10. This annual event, jointly organized by "e-fellows.net," a consortium of the Holtzbrink publishing group, Telekom, McKinsey and DIE ZEIT, provides current information on study opportunities in Germany and abroad. Many of the students came by the EducationUSA booth where exchanges specialist Petra Spitz from the U.S. Consulate Duesseldorf provided pertinent information about studying in the U.S., student visa, financial aid, internships and au-pair. | **Education USA**



German-American Day Celebration Focuses On The Fall Of The Wall

October 4, 2009. "60 Years German Basic Law - 20 Years Fall of the Berlin Wall" was the theme of the 23rd German-American Day celebrations jointly hosted on October 4 by the German-American Friends of the Niederrhein and the American Women's Club Duesseldorf at the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg. As keynote speaker, Consul General Janice Weiner gave an update on bilateral relations and talked about her assignment as a junior political officer in East Berlin from 1988-90 where she also experienced the night of November 9 when the wall came down. Other speakers included the Mayors of Duisburg and Krefeld who emphasized the important work of the regional German-American associations and in particular their support for student exchanges. The event in Duisburg was a welcome opportunity to thank the members of two organizations for their commitment to furthering German-American friendship.



Consulate's Commercial Service Assists U.S. Exporters to Reach out to New Customers in Germany

September 24-27, 2009. [Expopharm](#), the annual show for pharmacy products, attracts an ever-growing number of international exhibitors and visitors. Duesseldorf Senior Commercial Specialist Anette Salama supported Hollywood Brands USA out of New Jersey and Pharmaceutical Trade Services (PTSI) of Gautier, MS with market and contact information and helped to strengthen their current business relationships in European markets. | **U.S. Commercial Service Germany**



Consul General Weiner Hosts Annual Fall Reception

September 22, 2009. Consul General Janice Weiner hosted a reception for contacts representing a cross-section of the North Rhine-Westphalian political, business, diplomatic and cultural community on September 22. The reception served as introductory event for the Consul General as well as new director of the Foreign Commercial Service section at the consulate, Richard Kanter. Welcoming the guests Janice Weiner underscored the importance the consulate places on a strong U.S. - German relationship. The reception was also an occasion for Janice Weiner and Richard Kanter to express thanks for the support and welcome they had received upon arrival and to discuss plans for the new season.



Explaining The New U.S. Foreign Policy Approach In Bruehl

September 21, 2009. On September 21, Bernd Herbert from the consulate discussed key elements of the Administration's foreign policy with junior civil servants at the Federal Public Administration College Bruehl. Drawing on the recently released "Transatlantic Trends" of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, he suggested that the improved image and support for U.S. global leadership on the part of European audiences had created new political space for transatlantic cooperation.



Consul General Janice Weiner Meets the Press in NRW

September 17, 2009. At a press conference at the consulate on September 17, Janice Weiner introduced herself as the new Consul General in Duesseldorf. Print, radio and TV journalists from ten media outlets in NRW used the event to ask Ms. Weiner about her experience as a U.S. diplomat, her initial impressions of Duesseldorf and also her plans for future activities. Ms. Weiner said that it was an honor for her to serve as Consul General in NRW and that the new U.S. Ambassador in Berlin, Philip Murphy, was fully aware of the special significance of North Rhine Westphalia for bilateral relations. She invited the media and the public in general to consider the Consulate the first point of contact for questions about the United States and the German-American relationship. | **WDR TV Lokalzeit**



Lecture By Charles Kupchan Attracts Audience Of 400 In Cologne

September 16, 2009. Charles Kupchan, acclaimed book author and currently a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, presented a stimulating lecture at the Cologne Chamber of Commerce on "The West and the Rise of the Rest: Toward a New World (Dis-) Order?" on September 16. The speaker was invited by the Otto Wolff Foundation and the Amerika Haus

e.V. NRW and argued that the West should focus all its energies and attention on playing a key role in shaping the new world order and include Russia in the Euroatlantic Alliance. Ingo Zamperoni, anchor of the ARD Nightly news magazine, moderated the lively discussion with the audience.



U.S. Commercial Service Duesseldorf Supports U.S. Companies at Major Industry Event in Essen

September 14-19, 2009. At "[Schweissen & Schneiden 2009](#)", the world's lead welding, cutting, and surfacing technology fair, Principal Commercial Officer Richard Kanter and Commercial Specialist Klaus Jonas assisted 49 U.S. companies with counseling, market information, distributor recruitment and outreach and local website promotion, with invitations to over 150 German and European wholesalers and distributors. The Essen Welding Show counted over 1,000 exhibitors and over 60,000 trade visitors. The U.S. Welding Industry reported success in the international arena, with expected sales of more than \$15 million; and all U.S. exhibitors were very satisfied with their participation. | [U.S. Commercial Service Germany](#)



Ceremony In Roetgen Commemorates Liberation By U.S. Forces

September 12, 2009. Federal Minister Ulla Schmidt, NRW Interior Minister Ingo Wolf, NATO General Egon Ramms, Minister-President of the German-speaking region in Belgium, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, and Richard Volk of the U.S. Consulate Düsseldorf spoke at a September 12 ceremony in [Roetgen](#) commemorating the 65th anniversary of its liberation by U.S. forces during WW II. Roetgen Mayor Manfred Eis unveiled a memorial plaque marking the place where an advance detachment of the U.S. Third Armored Division crossed the German border as the first U.S. unit on September 12, 1944. Several hundred people attended the moving ceremony that paid tribute to the role of the United States at the end of WWII and to German-American friendship since then. | [Article Aachener Zeitung](#)



Transatlantic Trends Explained At NRW Parliament

Sept. 11, 2009. At the invitation of the German-American Parliamentary Group and the Amerika Haus e.V. NRW, Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, the Senior Director for Policy Programs at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, presented the findings of the newly released "Transatlantic Trends" at the Landtag in Duesseldorf. In his analysis he emphasized the positive impact of President Obama ("Obama bounce") on the European public and discussed pertinent views in the U.S. and European countries on major foreign policy and security issues. Angela Freimuth MdL, Vice-President of the Landtag, welcomed the participants who included NRW Minister Ingo Wolf, state legislators as well as other guests involved in transatlantic affairs. | [Transatlantic Trends 2009](#)



Consul General Welcomes New Fulbright Teaching Assistants

September 9, 2009. Consul General Janice Weiner along with Deputy Principal Officer Chris Grossman welcomed 140 new young American Fulbright teaching assistants on September 9 at their traditional orientation seminar in Altenberg outside Cologne. Consul General Weiner told the group about U.S. diplomacy in Germany and her own experiences living in East Berlin before the fall of the wall and offered

an update on the status of bilateral relations. The Consulate used the opportunity to encourage the junior U.S. teachers to take part in the U.S. Mission's school outreach program and other activities.



Ambassador Murphy Visits Duesseldorf

September 7-8, 2009. As part of Ambassador Philip Murphy's first visit to North Rhine-Westphalia on September 7 he called on Duesseldorf Lord Mayor Dirk Elbers at the City's Town hall [where he also signed the City's Golden Book](#). The Ambassador thanked the Lord Mayor for the city's support for the Consulate and German-American friendship. Afterwards he met with Handelsblatt chief editor Bernd Ziesemer for an informal tour d' horizon of current international economic and financial issues. The next day, September 8, Ambassador Murphy visited the Consulate where he met the American diplomats and the staff and explained some of his plans and activities over the next months. | [Rheinische Post article](#)



Ambassador Murphy Guest Of Honor At Traditional Iftar Dinner

September 7, 2009. On September 7, Ambassador Murphy was the guest of honor at a traditional Iftar during Ramadan hosted by Consul General Janice Weiner at her residence. In his welcome remarks the Ambassador referred to [President Obama's historic speech in Cairo](#) and his Ramadan message and also explained that communication with the Muslims in Germany would continue to be an important part of Mission Germany outreach programs. The dinner offered an opportunity to meet leading representatives of the Muslim community in NRW and to discuss a variety of aspects concerning the integration of immigrants in Germany, especially those with a Muslim background. | [President Obama's Ramadan Message](#)



Ambassador Murphy Visits European Air Hub of UPS at Cologne/Bonn Airport

September 7, 2009. On September 7, new U.S. Ambassador to Germany Philip Murphy began his first visit to Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany's most populous state, with a tour of the automated package sorting operations at the UPS European Air Hub at Cologne/Bonn airport, UPS's largest facility outside of the United States and its main European gateway. Accompanied by Düsseldorf Consul General Janice Weiner, CS Düsseldorf Principal Commercial Officer Richard Kanter, both newly arrived, and Senior Commercial Specialist Anette Salama, Ambassador Murphy was also given an overview of the UPS history in Europe and market access issues and competitive pressures that the company faces in Germany. | [larger image](#)



Contemporary American Art Displayed At Old Town hall In Hattingen

September 4, 2009. An exhibition with paintings and photography by American artists Thomas Sayre and Frank Craig from Raleigh, North Carolina, opened at the Old Town Hall in Hattingen on September 4, 2009. The consulate provided support for the exhibition that helped the local art association to show contemporary American art in the heart of the Ruhr area. Because of the death of Frank Craig only two weeks before the opening, the organizers dedicated the exhibition to him. [The exhibition will be shown through October 18.](#)



Welcoming New Consul General Janice G. Weiner to Duesseldorf

Janice G. Weiner, the new U.S. Consul General in Duesseldorf, took up her duties on August 14, 2009. Ms. Weiner's first tour in the Foreign Service was in then-East Berlin from 1988-90; she served as the State Department's Germany desk officer from 1996-98. Prior to joining the State Department, she spent 18 months as a post-graduate fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Competition Law in Munich in 1984-85. Most recently, she served as press attaché in Mexico City, Mexico and political counselor in Ankara, Turkey. Other tours include Warsaw, Poland as deputy political counselor, Toronto, Canada as political/economic chief and a previous tour in Ankara. In addition to German, she speaks French, Turkish, Polish, Spanish and Dutch. | [Full bio](#)



Supporting the Congress – Bundestag Exchange Program

August 3, 2009. On August 03, deputy principal officer Christopher Grossman welcomed the American participants in the 2009/10 Congress-Bundestag Exchange (CBYX) Program at the [Academy for International Education in Bonn](#) where the students are currently attending an orientation seminar set up by the Academy and exchange partner [Open Door International](#) to prepare them for their year-long stay in Germany. Grossman talked to them about the Foreign Service and explained the role of the U.S. Mission in Germany. He also encouraged them to register with their respective consulates and to take part in the Consulate's "[MeetUS](#)" [school outreach program](#).



High School Students at Adenauer Foundation Learn About U.S. Politics

July 28, 2009. Deputy Principal Officer Chris Grossman spoke on July 28 to 80 German high school students at one of the summer academies organized by the [Konrad Adenauer Foundation](#) in Wesseling. Grossman talked about challenges facing the U.S. and the world as well as about recent developments in U.S. domestic politics. The students actively engaged in a debate on a number of topics including the closure of the Guantanamo Bay facility, the worldwide economic crisis, and combating global climate change. During the four days of the academy, the students have a chance to focus on the relationship between Germany and the U.S.



NRW Media Bid Consul General "Farewell"

July 24, 2009. Influential NRW print media bid farewell to Consul General Matt Boyse this week, with feature stories or interviews appearing in Germany's largest circulation regional daily, the Essen-based [Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung \(WAZ\)](#) on July 20, the [Duesseldorf edition of BILD](#) on July 21, and Duesseldorf-based [Rheinische Post](#) on July 22. His [20-minute interview in Polish with Radio Duisburg](#) will be aired on July 28. In an article for the monthly "[NRW.jetzt](#)" that will appear shortly, the CG reflected on the German-American relationship, drawing from thousands of conversations and other experiences during his three years in Duesseldorf.



Woodcut and Print of President Obama's Berlin Speech Unveiled

July 23, 2009. On July 23, Deputy Principal Officer Chris Grossman attended the first printing of a [woodcut made by Cologne artist Juergen Christ of President Obama's speech in Berlin](#) in July 2008. Christ was inspired by Obama to make the woodcut based on a photo from the speech, noting that then candidate Obama had made a great impression on the German audience in his speech. The printing took place at a print shop in Cologne where a number of Christ's previous works were on display. In his remarks Grossman thanked the artist for his initiative and for furthering the relationship between the German and American people. The print shop will make fifty prints from the woodcut, one for every state in the U.S. | [Article Koelner Stadtanzeiger](#) | [Video Koelner Stadtanzeiger TV](#) | [Washington Post, July 23, 2009](#) | [New York Times, July 23, 2009](#)



"Take me out to the Ballgame!"

July 12, 2009. The German baseball season is nearing its summer highpoint, as the Northern League competes with the Southern League for the national championship. On July 12, the [Solingen Alligators](#) roundly defeated the Mainz Athletics 10-0 at home, thus reaching the semi-finals in the First German Bundesliga. After throwing out the first ball, Consul General Matt Boyse joined NRW Amcham Representative Werner Kanthak and MdB Juergen Kucharczyk (SPD) in rooting for the Solingen team, which was undeterred by the rain showers that accompanied the start of the game.



A Public Discussion of the Economic Crisis

July 6, 2009. [CDU Bundestag member Dr. Guenter Krings](#) together with Dieter Breymann hosted an evening discussion with members of [their party's "Mittelstand" \(Small and Medium Sized Industry\) organization](#) in Moenchengladbach on July 6. Guest speaker Consul General Matt Boyse offered perspectives on the Administration's and broader American views on the financial and economic crisis in the U.S. and elsewhere, distinguishing between its origin and the broader causes, and highlighting the many factors in many countries that contributed to it, and urging a more differentiated understanding than is often heard. "We are all in the same boat," he observed, and called for drawing careful conclusions from these developments. In his public remarks, MdB Krings agreed, commenting that many shared responsibility for the crisis, and that it was "not just an American phenomenon." The CG also took the opportunity to congratulate four recent German participants in the [Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program](#) who either recently returned from a year of high school in the U.S. or who will soon embark upon one.



Major League Baseball Celebrates Independence Day in Duesseldorf

July 4, 2009. The [Major League Baseball \(MLB\)](#) Road show celebrated Independence Day on July 4, 2009 with a baseball exhibition on the Marktplatz in front of the Rathaus in Old Town Duesseldorf. The event included a batting cage, a small baseball field, a pitching game, music and a tent where people could watch last year's World Series. Deputy Principal Officer Chris Grossman threw out the opening pitch for the event on the field and then participated in batting and catching events with the public. MLB gave a donation of baseball

equipment to a local youth league as part of the event. The activities were enjoyed by both the young and the old.



Student Advising Night at Dortmund University

July 1, 2009. Several universities in North-Rhine Westphalia are offering a "Long Night of Student Advising" this summer to inform students about international exchange opportunities. The [International Relations Office of the Technical University of Dortmund](#) invited a number of American universities and exchange organizations with U.S. programs as well as the U.S. Consulate Duesseldorf to their event on July 1. [Education USA](#) representative Petra Spitz presented a lecture on "What you should know, if you want to study in the U.S." and provided individual counseling at an information booth all evening. About 300 students used the opportunity to ask many questions about campus life in the U.S. , curriculum, funding possibilities etc. TU Dortmund University is well-connected to various institutions of higher education in the United States with two official university partnerships ([University of Iowa](#) and [University of Southern California](#)) and a number of other bilateral exchange agreements with U.S. institutions. | [Education USA - Information on Studying in the U.S.](#)